

The Clarion

Volume 6
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TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
Newark, New Jersey

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FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK:

The other day, our new chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, Dr. Eley Washington, met with me to plan the work of the Commission for the coming year. While much of our time was spent discussing policies and procedures, we came to share with enthusiasm a great hope for the future of Trinity Church. It is this hope which I want to tell you about now.

Trinity, in this earliest part of its second century, faces opportunities for service which are greater than those of any period in her entire history. This is not because of our present size or resources--there have been other times when membership was larger and finances were more secure--but it is because of the people who live in our community. There are more people living in Clinton Hill than ever before. Literally thousands of new residents are living within a mile of our corner. A majority of them are Protestant. Many have been uprooted from very different ground, and have yet to be given roots here. Families are moving into Clinton Hill again; both parents and children have new adjustments to make and new responsibilities to undertake. A large number of senior citizens in our neighborhood must also make new adjustments and find new meaning for their lives. Many persons without families are now living in the apartment buildings and rooming houses on the Hill.

A tremendous new opportunity, therefore, confronts this old neighborhood and this historic church. While, in many wonderful and creative ways, Trinity has come alive since 1955, we must now dare to imagine a future in terms of people as we have not yet done: individual persons to be brought into vital, redeeming fellowship within the Body of Christ.

To some extent, and only to some extent, we can plan for a growing church--growing in numbers and growing in service--through the work of evangelism. But, more important than our organizational plans is the spirit of commitment within all of our individual minds and hearts as we respond to the challenge of Christ. That challenge is reflected in the faces of so many men and women and children who have recently become our neighbors. You do not need to wait for any official direction or commission report before you respond to the challenge: extend your own personal invitations to join the Trinity family!

Your pastor and friend,

— Al —

Alan Geyer

FEBRUARY 21, 1960

According to the day of the month, Sunday, February 21st, was the second anniversary of the passing of Curtis Bayley Geyer, pastor of Trinity Church from February 1955 to February 1958. Two things took place on this Sunday which brought him especially to mind.

One was the fourth Birthday Party of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council held that afternoon in our church. In a brief resume of the history of the Council, the speaker paid tribute to the work of Mr. Geyer in getting this organization on its feet.

The other reminder was the first hymn in the morning service, though it was not intentionally selected with him in mind. It was not until the ringing words of "Ein' Feste Burg" were being sung in the Processional that the realization came that during the Processional of the ministers in the Memorial Service for Curtis B. Geyer, this hymn was sung.

One of Mr. Geyer's strong admirers was James Zirpoli. He joined the church under Mr. Geyer and, until he moved from the city, "Jim" gave generously of his talents - usually printing without charge. As his personal gift at the time of Mr. Geyer's death, he offered to print in full the Memorial Service. Of necessity, this could not be finished for that afternoon. Though some individual members and friends did get copies at the church later, unfortunately many did not.

Our present pastor, Alan Geyer, for reasons which we all understand, has felt that he could not personally distribute these booklets. Some of us thought that through the "Clarion" - and this issue seems to be an appropriate time - the members could have copies of the service and in reading it could have new inspiration from the life of Curtis Bayley Geyer as evidenced by the tributes in the Memorial Booklet.

- L. Elizabeth Smith

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Junior Department enjoyed the planning and carrying out of their first Family Festival for their parents on Sunday, February 28. A pot-luck supper with its variety of delicious hot dishes and desserts was the delightful beginning of the evening program, followed by a community sing and presentations by the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. A skit by the fifth grade showed the work of the "Harvester" among the migrants and a Radio Show and Shadow Play by the Sixth grade gave an idea of the work of a literary team teaching people to read, and misson work being done in India. The fourth grade, to be a little different, presented a story of the good King Josiah and finding of the last scroll. A good selection of items were brought in to be made into friendship kits for migrant workers in New Jersey.

Welcome to three new workers in the Sunday School - Mrs. Marzell Thompson, Mrs. Odell Bussie and Mr. David Whitney.

- Ethel Ritz, Superintendent

OUR MINISTRY IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS

February has been an eventful month in the community ministry of Trinity's members and staff. Space only permits, unfortunately, brief acknowledgment and commentary, on a certain few of these occasions.

Early this month, some fifty Trinity members attended the church's annual meeting to hear reviews and evaluations of the past year's church program and recommendations for this year. I particularly urge your attention to these two matters mentioned in the Associate Minister's report on community relations:

(1) Every member who resides in Clinton Hill should either write Mayor Carlin or Mr. Arnold Hess, Secretary of the Newark Board of Education, 31 Green Street, Newark, urging the need for a new elementary school in Clinton Hill. This need has become even more apparent since the announcement of increased school enrollments in Newark schools between September and February. The striking fact is that Bergen and Avon schools led the list with 256 and 244 additional new pupils, respectively--almost twice the increase over any other school in the city. Yet, in September, these schools were on split sessions, with an average class size of 40. However, there are signs that the city administration is beginning to acknowledge Clinton Hill's school needs. This is why your letters now as parents and residents are crucial to help tip the balance in a favorable direction. Your individual letters do carry weight. (2) Trinity members are urged, also, to participate in their own neighborhood's community organization. In Clinton Hill, the neighborhood council has made rapid strides in recent weeks to become even more representative of neighborhood thinking. The advisory Board, composed of leading church, school, business, and other professional leaders, has become an important link in neighborhood action. The Merchants Association is now working more closely than ever before with the neighborhood council -- witness the 11,000 circulation Neighborhood News which the two groups jointly publish. Block branches have shown a new vitality; more persons are welcoming this monthly opportunity to sit down with their immediate neighbors on common problems. They see that it gets results -- and, personally, makes neighborhood living immensely more congenial. If you don't have a block branch where you live, why not take the initiative in forming one? See a neighborhood council leader for assistance.

Several invitations to interpret the Trinity Project to other groups have kept the staff busy this month. Your associate minister, in speaking to the Bragaw P.T.A. and the Irvington Methodist Fellowship had the opportunity to share the significance of Trinity's ministry to the community. All staff members participated in the 3-session study of the Trinity project in the "Church and Community" course at Drew. Some 30 Drew students and their professor were sufficiently impressed by Trinity's work that they voluntarily made an afternoon's field trip to Clinton Hill to view the church, and take a walking tour of the neighborhood. Such "sharing occasions" should deepen the sense of responsibility of staff and membership alike for the Kingdom's work which always beckons us to go yet "a further mile."

Two final notes: (1) A sober one - The associate minister has received numerous housing complaints in recent days. It particularly hit home when the name of a Trinity constituent was mentioned as an owner who has shown an unwillingness to provide his tenants adequate heat. A word should suffice to quicken the Christian conscience to take remedial action. (2) A happy one - All Trinity should rejoice that one of its members, Louis Pitts, was chosen as the neighborhood council's "Member of the Year."



LENTEN NIGHTS

Three Sunday Evenings

5:30

COVERED DISH SUPPER
AND
FELLOWSHIP HOUR



7:00

"CHRIST AND
MY CALLING"

Speakers and Discussion
Office workers, housewives,
industrial workers, doctors,
teachers, govt. employees

8:00

"MEDITATIONS
AND MUSIC:
THE THREE B'S"

Bach, Beethoven, Brahms
Sermonic biographies: Mr. Geyer
Special music: Mr. Schneider,
Soloists, choir

at

TRINITY

MARCH 13, 27 • APRIL 10

(Trinity Methodist Church, Clinton and Treacy Avenues, Newark)